a. to review employment opportunities in the UAE and availability of corresponding skills in India.

b. to co-ordinate between the two states in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and to take necessary action in this regard.

c. to interpret the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding in case of any dispute in this regard and to settle the difficulties that might arise in the implementation.

d. to propose review or amendment of any of the articles of this Memorandum of Understanding whenever necessary.

*The MoU has come into effect immediately and will be valid for 4 years. It will automatically extend by another 4 years each time thereafter unless any of the countries notifies its intention to terminate it.

Similar MoUs are being pursued with Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Malaysia also for formalizing bilateral cooperation with these countries for promotion of overseas employment and protection of Indian workers.

Off-loading of Indian from US plane

2478. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian was off-loaded from US plane for suspicious behaviour;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Dutch Government officials treated the Indian in objectional way; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the our Government?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) A Northwest Airlines flight NW 0042, bound for Mumbai from Amsterdam was turned back to Amsterdam on request made by the pilot/US sky marshals on board the flight. The flight was escorted back to Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam by Dutch Air Force aircraft on August 23, 2006. 12 Indian passengers on the flight were detained by the Dutch authorities for investigation.

The Dutch Ambassador was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and a strong protest was registered at the handling of the unfortunate incident, especially the treatment meted out to the detainees.

The Dutch authorities expressed understanding for the concerns expressed by the Indian Government but drew attention to the apparently suspicious behaviour of the 12 Indian passengers, which appeared to require urgent preventive action. They conveyed that as soon as the investigations were completed within one-and-a-half days, the passengers were not only released from detention, but the Dutch authorities facilitated their earlier possible return to India.

The Indian Mission in The Hague worked closely with the Dutch authorities not only to obtain their early release but also to ensure their safe flight back to Mumbai.

Task force on Panchayats

†2479. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a task force under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Smt. V.S. Rama Devi, Ex-Governor;

(b) if so, whether the said task force have submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, the main recommendations of the said report;

(d) whether Government have identified those recommendations which are going to be accepted;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the said recommendations are going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Task force on Jurisprudence was set up by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Smt. V.S. Rama Devi, Ex-Governor, and the Task force has submitted its report. A Summary of the recommendations is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.